

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, ELAB

SUBJ: NEW RULES FOR TRADE UNION OPERATIONS

REF: SANTIAGO 5931

1. IN NATIONWIDE ADDRESS DEC 22, MINLABOR MACKAY ANNOUNCED NEW RULES GOVERNING FIVE KEY AREAS OF TRADE UNION ACTIVITY. REGULATIONS, WHICH MACKAY CHARACTERIZED AS "TRANSITORY," ARE CONTAINED IN DECREE LAW WHICH WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL REVISED LABOR CODE, AND SPECIFICALLY SECTION DEVOTED TO TRADE UNIONS, IS ISSUED.

2. VACANCIES ON UNION EXECUTIVE BOARDS

GIVEN CONTINUING BAN ON ELECTIONS OF ANY KIND, TERMS OF UNION OFFICIALS HOLDING OFFICE ON SEPT 11 (DAY OF COUP) ARE EXTENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. VACANCIES WILL BE FILLED BY MOST SENIOR UNION MEMBERS IN THE BARGAINING UNIT, WHO ARE STRONGLY URGED TO SERVE.

3. PERMISSION FOR UNION OFFICERS TO ATTEND TO UNION BUSINESS

TRADITIONAL RIGHT OF UNION OFFICERS TO SPEND NEARLY FULL TIME ON UNION AFFAIRS WHILE RECEIVING REGULAR WAGES IS REESTABLISHED.

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NUMBER OF OFFICERS ALLOWED THIS PRIVILEGE (LICENCIA SINDICAL)

WILL BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF UNION, FEDERATION, OR CONFEDERATION RPT CONFEDERATION AND NEEDS OF EACH ORGANIZATION. SALARIES FOR THESE OFFICERS ARE CHARGEABLE TO THE ORGANIZATION UNLESS EMPLOYER HAS PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THEM (MANY HAVE). OFFICERS OF COPPER WORKERS UNIONS AND CAMPESINO UNIONS ARE EXCEPTED FROM ABOVE PROVISIONS, HOWEVER, DUE TO THEIR "SPECIAL SITUATION".

4. SHOP STEWARDS

PROCEDURES SIMILAR TO THOSE IN PARA 2 WILL BE USED TO FILL VACANCIES IN SHOP STEWARDS (DELEGADOS DE PERSONAL).

5. UNION MEETINGS

MEETINGS ARE AUTHORIZED BUT NEAREST POLICE UNIT MUST BE GIVEN AT LEAST TWO DAYS PRIOR NOTICE.

6. IMMUNITIES FOR UNION OFFICERS

PROTECTION OF UNION OFFICERS AND SHOP STEWARDS FROM ARBITRARY DISMISSAL EMPLOYERS FOR UNION ACTIVITIES (FUERO SINDICAL) IS SPECIFICALLY REAFFIRMED.

7. MACKAY CONCLUDED BY STRESSING GOVT'S DESIRE TO "NORMALIZE" UNION ACTIVITIES AND ITS INTENTION TO RESPECT ROLE OF "COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS" SUCH AS UNIONS WHICH MUST, HOWEVER, "CONFINE THEMSELVES STRICTLY TO THE FIELD OF ACTIVITY FOR WHICH THEY WERE CREATED." ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITY EXPLICITLY BARRED.

8. COMMENT. DURING COURTESY CALL BY CHARGE AND LABOR ATTACHE DEC 3, MACKAY OUTLINED SOME OF THESE MEASURES, ESPECIALLY ON FILLING UNION VACANCIES (REFTEL).
THOMPSON

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